NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

Weekly Staff Newsletter
March 19, 1999

ECP/Chicago Wilderness Program gains in recognition

In January 1998, through a generous grant from the Grand Victoria Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and The Field Museum launched an expansion of the Chicago Wilderness/Mighty Acorns Program. Since its 1993 conception by the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the program has grown from two partners in Cook County involving 2,500 children annually to twelve partners in six counties involving 55 schools and 5,000 children annually.

The Mighty Acorns Program aims to reach under-served, urban third through ninth grade students and foster a personal connection and appreciation for Chicagoland's biodiversity. Students participate in year-long, hands-on stewardship projects such as collecting and planting seeds and removing invasive species, as well as educational activities while exploring local prairies, woodlands and wetlands.

The Field Museum has taken the leadership, coordinating, and training role in the collective effort to build partner capacity, continue expansion, and evaluate the program's educational progress. A 1999 continuation grant of $185,000 from the Grand Victoria Foundation will further this work.

On March 27 at *Wild in Chicago*, The Field Museum, on behalf of its partners, will be the proud recipient of the Conservation Education Outstanding Achievement Award. This award is given by the USDA Forest Service to only one program in a nine state area. The Grand Victoria Foundation has been so impressed by the program's success that **Carol Fialkowski** was invited to present a program overview to the Foundation Board and later was sent a bouquet of flowers as a thank-you!

Kelly Treese Thomas has joined The Field Museum to direct the program's expansion. She comes with five-and-a-half years experience coordinating volunteer programs in the Cook County Forest Preserves, three years experience directing other projects, and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Colorado in Boulder.

Congratulations on the award, Carol and Kelly, and good luck with Mighty Acorns!

Submitted by **Kelly Thomas**

FIELD NOTES

Week of March 22

Public Events/Special Events

Museum Open Until 8 p.m. Monday

Museology
- Thursday 12:30 p.m., Clrm B

It's Wild in Chicago Festival
- Begins Saturday

Staff/Volunteer Events

Tuesday Noon Seminar Series
- Zoology Classroom

Aerobics Class
- Tuesday & Thursday 5 p.m.
  Ground Floor, East Stairwell

Tae Bo Class
- Wednesday Noon
  Classroom A

New Staff and Volunteer Orientation
- Wednesday 8:45 a.m., Clrm A

President's Address
- Thursday 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
  MWH

* PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS *

Thursday, March 25
Montgomery Ward Lecture Hall

Last names beginning with A-L
9 a.m. – 10 a.m.

coffee and bagels for all
10 a.m.

Last names beginning with M-Z
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

DON'T MISS IT!

Submitted by **Stephanie Powell**

Staff Members and Volunteers:
Are you involved in your local College Alumni Chapter or other Alumni Organizations in the Chicago area?

Group Sales is interested in planning a visit for your group to the Field Museum!

If you have a contact name or an address where we could send information, please call us at ext. 850 or 843 no later than Tuesday, March 23rd!
SPECIAL GROUP PACKAGES ARE AVAILABLE!

CONGRATULATIONS and WELCOME!

The following are new staff who started their employment during February.

Alex Bacon	Facility Planning	Groundskeeper
Lorie Barber	Geology	Fossil Preparator
Eduarda Briseno	Education	Program Assistant – Outreach
Shelly Bruschuk	Anthropology	Data Entry Assistant
Sarah Coleman	Anthropology	Data Entry Assistant
Jeanelle De La Paz	Exhibits	Temporary Exhibits Admin. Asst.
Solomon Duanah	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
Eve Emshwiller	Botany	Adjunct Curator
Shelly Ericksen	Photography	Digital Imaging Intern
John Frazier	Education	Coordinator, Teacher Programs
Samuel Harrell	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
Patrice Hart	Anthropology	Intern
Tanya Myles	Finance	Budget Analyst
Danny Pearson	Security	Security Officer
Nancy Petchenik	Marketing	Director of Marketing Strategy
Angela Puera	Anthropology	Collections Mngmt Assistant
Thomas Schulenberg	ECP	Conservation Zoologist
Douglas Shield	Facility Planning	Engineering Assistant
Chris Sperry	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Randell Strickland	Education	Public Programs Coordinator
Kelly Thomas	ECP	Director, Mighty Acorns Expansion

JOB WELL DONE!

Staff who were promoted or changed positions during the month of February.

Elisa Aguilar-Kutza	Anthropology	Acting (Interim) Collections Manager
Marla Camp	Marketing	Marketing Communications Coordinator
Amanda Geppert	Development	Field Associates Coordinator
Daisy Janeway	Education	Education Group Scheduling Specialist
Olga Pack	Security	Security Officer III
George Robinson	Security	Security Officer I
Jon Rogers	Anthropology	Assistant Collections Manager

GOODBYE and BEST WISHES!

The following are staff who are no longer employed with us as of February.

Kenya Battle	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Lynetta Brown	Education	Education Group Scheduling Supervisor
Rebecca Conant	Geology	Collection Management Assistant
Damaris Cruz	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Rebecca DiCandilo	Photography	Digital Imaging Intern
Sara Foster	Botany	Collection Assistant
Howard Gray	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
Will Grewe-Mullins	Anthropology	Assoc. Collections Manager
Wendy Jackson	Education	Scheduling Specialist
Anita Joiner	Housekeeping	Housekeeper
James Pulizzi	ECP	Technical Assistant
Addie Scott	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Timothy Staggers	Visitor Services	Visitor Services Representative
Jessie Thymes	Education	Community Outreach Coordinator
Louise Waters	Stores	Sales Clerk

Just a reminder.....

It's that time again!

NEW STAFF AND VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION

Wednesday, March 24
8:45 a.m. – Noon
Classroom A

The Human Resources Department **cordially invites you** to attend a special behind-the scenes look at the Museum designed for **new staff and volunteers**. This welcoming event is specially targeted toward those individuals who started their employment or volunteer service anytime from the end of October 1998 through March 1999.

This will be your opportunity to meet other new team members and to become acquainted with the academic areas of our institution from an insider's point of view.

PLEASE RSVP TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT (EXT. 356) BY *TUESDAY, MARCH 22.*

Submitted by the Human Resources Department

ATTENTION STAFF WITH UPCOMING SPONSORED PROGRAMMING DEADLINES

Sponsored Programs Coordinator **Deborah Bakken** will be away from the Museum from April 1 to April 26 to conduct archaeological fieldwork. If you have upcoming grant proposals or other sponsored programming business, please call her at ext. 877 to make arrangements for any April deadlines.

Any easels out there?

The Education Department is looking for easels for the upcoming *It's Wild in Chicago Festival '99*. We are on a Museum-wide search! If you have any available for use from Saturday, March 27 through Tuesday, March 30 please contact **Sue Stott**, ext. 662 or Nicole Royal, ext. 360. Thanks for your assistance!

Submitted by **Nicole Royal**

Thanks to those to helped with UNO visit

I would like to thank everyone from the Housekeeping, Security, and Visitor Services departments for cheerfully coordinating the arrival, visit, and departure of nearly 3,000 guests from UNO on Saturday, March 13, 1999. This unanticipated visit required much flexibility and great energy by the staffs of those departments.

Submitted by **Dina Zissimopoulos**

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Dillon reports from Chile:
Pipeline re-routing saves rare plants, El Niño database expanded

Curator **Michael Dillon** (Botany), recently returned from four weeks of NSF-sponsored field and herbarium studies in Chile. In December 1997, while doing field studies in northern Chile, Dillon learned of plans to route a major propane gas pipeline through a *quebrada* (small valley) where a decade before he had discovered two new species of flowering plants and documented several rare or endangered species. The company's "cursory" environmental impact statement had failed to list two of the rarest species in all of Chile. At that time, in meetings with the mayor and municipal planners in Taltal, he proposed changing the pipeline route to preserve this important locality. In early February of this year, a visit confirmed that the route for the pipeline had been switched to utilize a valley to the south already impacted by a water pipeline. Plans are now being prepared to designate this region part of a national biological sanctuary.

Subsequently, in the herbaria of the National Museum of Natural History (Santiago) and the Universidad de Concepción (Concepción), Dillon identified Atacama desert plants and added nearly one thousand accessions to LOMAFLOR, a database documenting the flora of the Peruvian and Atacama deserts which run 3500 kilometers from northern Peru to north-central Chile (7°-28°S). Collecting activities during the extraordinary recent El Niño years provided a wealth of new records and these two institutions are rich in type material for the Chilean desert flora.

$$ FINANCE FORUM $$

Thanks to all Finance staff for your participation in our belated First Annual Museum Clean-Up effort last week. Your work helped to bring the Museum closer to its goal of being clutter- and pest-free. Congratulations on a job well done.

Tuesday at Noon seminar series continues

Dr. Antonio Guillen-Servent, a postdoctoral student in the Department of Biology of the University of Missouri at St. Louis, will be our noon seminar speaker this coming week. The title of his talk is: "Biogeography and history of diversification of Rhinolophid and Hipposiderid Bats: A Molecular Systematic Approach. These are poorly known, insect-eating bats of the Old World. Please join us in the Zoology classroom at 12 noon on March 23.

Submitted by **Bill Burger**

Natural News

The *Natural News* is edited by **Rodger Patience** in the Development office (ext. 617, patience@fmnh.org) and **Erica Kelly** in the Finance Department (ext. 584, ekelly@fmnh.org). Submissions are welcome via e-mail or on disk in Microsoft Word or WordPerfect format. The deadline for submissions is Tuesday at noon. Remember – write early and often!